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Letter dated 23 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the uncovering of a number of mass graves in which 160 Serbs killed in a bestial way were buried. The mass graves are located in the area of Pristina, the largest of them in the township of Dragodan, and contain bodies buried with metal tags carrying names, the names of living persons or numbers alone.

The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police have contacted selected persons in an attempt to identify the bodies on the basis of documents, clothing and personal effects found on those buried.

There are frightening indications that the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and UNMIK have been attempting to cover up this gruesome crime, the victims of which have been Serbs and other non-Albanians. The graves were uncovered several months ago, but the information about it has been greatly delayed, and it was only at the beginning of August that UNMIK and KFOR began to contact family members to help in identification. The contacts, made individually and secretly, provide evidence that KFOR and UNMIK are after covering up the heinous crime committed by ethnic Albanian terrorists in the wake of the withdrawal of the army and police of Yugoslavia and the deployment of the international presences. Furthermore, KFOR and UNMIK have failed to inform the Yugoslav authorities of the uncovering of the graves, so that identification is carried out without Yugoslav pathologists. Besides, the bodies of the murdered Serbs could be identified only by close relatives who have long been driven out of Kosovo and Metohija.

The crime and the handling of the consequences provide yet another piece of evidence of the support for and the complicity of KFOR and UNMIK in the cover-up of the atrocities committed by ethnic Albanian terrorists. One such instance was also the failure of KFOR and UNMIK to provide the Yugoslav authorities with identification data about eight bodies of murdered Serbs found last July in the containers in the hospital compound in Gnjilane.

The cover-up of old crimes and the incitement to new ones, such as the throwing of a bomb at the building of the Committee of the Yugoslav Government for Cooperation with UNMIK in Pristina or at Serbian children at Crkvene Vodice, cast a very different light on the assertions about a successful evolvement of the UNMIK and KFOR missions, while the intention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo and Head of UNMIK to hold

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local elections in Kosovo and Metohija next October in the circumstances is but an exercise in callousness and sanctimony.

In bringing this shameful attempt to cover up atrocities to the attention of the Security Council, I call upon it, on the instructions of my Government, to condemn it at its meeting on 24 August and to instruct the international presences to withdraw forthwith those of their members who are responsible for this dishonourable act from Kosovo and Metohija.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.